(c) Recession of glaciers of Himalayan region is part of a world-wise phenomenon and can not be prevented on a large scale in view of the nature of Indian Himalayan glaciers being debris covered, the economic feasibility, the scale of operation and the likelihood of pollution. Due to enhanced melting of ice, consequent upon faster recession, the run-off of the Himalayan Rivers may increase marginally.

Pollution abatement measures like interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the rivers for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, Electric/improved wood crematoria, River Front Development etc. are implemented under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) in the polluted stretches identified by CPCB. So far a sewage treatment capacity of 1747 million litres per day has been created under both the phases of Ganga Action Plan which includes the sewage treatment capacity for its tributaries. With the pollution abatement works completed so far under GAP Phase-I & II, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality. At present the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan covers 164 towns alongs polluted stretches of 35 identified rivers spread over 20 States in the country for abatement of pollution.

Advise of environment agencies for rich class

†1823. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environment agencies working within the country have expressed their concern over pollution being spread by the rich class of people;

(b) whether the agencies have advised to prefer travel by train as against aeroplanes;

(c) whether imposition of tax on rich people has also been advised; and

(d) Government's policy with regard to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A report by the Greenpeace India (GPI) based on the survey of some households appears to have mentioned about carbon emissions by various income classes in the country particularly with respect to persons in the higher and lower income classes. The report however has not undergone any peer review so far.

Various Government initiatives have already been taken by the imperatives of sustainable development in the country, which have led to the decline in the intensity of energy use and carbon dioxide emissions.

Relocation of people from tiger reserves

1824. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and his Ministry are in the process of formulating guidelines and packages for the relocation of people from tiger reserves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken for initiating the process

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for enhancing the relocation/rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, apart from developing related norms, based on the report of a professional agency mandated with the task.

Debate on climate change

1825. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the one-day debate on climate change, with more than 150 nations participating to prepare the ground for launching negotiations on an agreement to succeed the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, the international accord that limits the emissions of greenhouse gases;

(b) if so, the main decisions taken in the meeting;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to prepare for climate change effects; and

(d) if so, the help and assistance being sought from UN in meeting the climate change effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A day long high-level event "The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge of Climate Change" was convened on 24 September 2007 by the United Nations Secretary-General. The Indian delegation was led by Shri. P. Chidambaram, Hon'ble Finance Minister who informed the world leaders that India's per capita consumption of energy and emission of CO_2 are amongst the lowest in the world. He also highlighted the efforts being made by India supportive of sustainable and clean development. It was also mentioned that Climate Change should be dealt based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and requirement of any action has to be commensurate to the respective capabilities. It was also emphasized that the only forum where the issue of climate change can be decided upon is the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A need was also felt to strengthen the Clean Development Mechanism of Kyoto Protocol. The world leaders also hoped that intense negotiations would be held in the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC, at Bali, Indonesia, for a post 2012 agreement.

(c) to (d) India is engaged in the International Climate Change Regime, including the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, as also various partnership with other countries under the UNFCCC. India has been pressing hard that as per the requirements of Kyoto Protocol the Annex-I developed countries should take deeper and longer commitments for the second phase of Kyoto Protocol. Further, India is actively participating in the Climate Change dialogue and at the Adhoc Working Group discussions coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, In these negotiations, India has been pressing that 'Adaptation Fund' under the Kyoto Protocol should be operationalised at the earliest. While India does not have any Green House Gases abatement commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, nevertheless a range of policies and programmes help mitigate climate change. Besides, India spends every year over 2 per cent of the GDP in development measures with strong adaptation content. The Government has also set up "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" to study the impacts of anthropgenic climate change on India, and to identify the measures that we may have to take in the future. Futher, a 'Council on Climate Change', chaired by Prime Minister, has also been set up. The focus of the Council is to evolve a coordinated response to issues